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INFO RUEHBUL/AMEMBASSY KABUL PRIORITY 4940
RUEHNE/AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI PRIORITY 8026
RUEHKF/AMCONSUL KARACHI PRIORITY 0430
RUEHLH/AMCONSUL LAHORE PRIORITY 8278
RUEHPW/AMCONSUL PESHAWAR PRIORITY 6081
RHMFISS/CDR USCENCOM MACDILL AFB FL PRIORITY
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHDC PRIORITY
RHEFDIA/DIA WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY
RUEKJCS/JOINT STAFF WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY
RUEHIL/ODRP ISLAMABAD PK PRIORITY
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY

S E C R E T SECTION 01 OF 03 ISLAMABAD 005596

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E.O. 12958: DECL: 03/31/2016

TAGS: [PGOV](#) [PTER](#) [PK](#)

SUBJECT: GOVERNMENT'S CHARM OFFENSIVE LEAVES MANY BALOCH UNIMPRESSED

Classified By: Derived from DSCG 05-01, b and d.

[1](#)1. (S) Summary: While sporadic engagements continue between Baloch nationalists and military and Frontier Corps units, the Pakistan government
The Charm Offensive

[1](#)2. (U) Even as clashes continue between security forces and Baloch tribesman, the government has announced in recent weeks a set of political
-- On March 17, Chaudhry Shujaat Hussain, President of the ruling Muslim League party announced that people from other provinces working in the
-- On March 26, Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz visited Quetta and announced that the government would create 30,000 public sector jobs in provinci
-- On March 29, President Musharraf used the inauguration of a \$1.7 million gas supply project in Gwadar to underscore the government's commitm
He pledged that he would monitor progress personally.

The Naysayers

[1](#)3. (C) The reaction of Balochis has been predictably mixed, with many Baloch political figures dismissing the announcements as window dressing
[1](#)4. (C) Former Chief Secretary of Balochistan Hakim Baloch told PolCounselor that the core issue is the right of the local population to have a
[1](#)5. (C) Ishaq Baloch, Central Information Secretary of the Baloch National Party said that while the party welcomed the announcements, it remai
[1](#)6. (C) Sher Ali Mazari, an Islamabad-based relation of Nawab Bugti and a regular Embassy contact, also doubted that the announcements would he
(Comment: in post's judgment these number appear significantly inflated. End Comment.)

Third, ordinary Balochis continued to experience regular indignities at the hands of Punjabis. He estimated that there were 300-550 checkpoints

[1](#)7. (S) Mazari concluded that the initiatives would have no major impact and confided that senior figures in Islamabad agree, citing by name NS

The Cautious Optimists

[1](#)8. (C) In contrast to Baloch political figures, a number of journalist contacts and NGO representatives familiar with Balochistan were cautiou
[1](#)9. (C) Another journalist, Shazada Zulfiqar, reports that he met last week with nationalist Sardars Nawab Akbar Bugti and Baloch Marri and the
[1](#)10. (C) A Program officer with a microcredit NGO active in Balochistan acknowledged that the government had been very slow to deliver on past
Comment

[1](#)11. (C) The government's pursuit of a two-track policy -- using sticks with the Baloch separatists and carrots with the broader Baloch popul
CROCKER